



**{In Archive} RE: Seward Coal Terminal**

**Russ Maddox** to: Ashton, William S \(\DEC\), Julie Congdon  
**Please respond to russmaddox**

12/09/2008 08:21 AM

History: This message has been replied to.  
Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

Hello,

I am not sure of the corporate structure but the terminal operator is Aurora Energy now which is some sort of partnership between the Usibelli coal mine in Healy, a coal-fired power plant in Fairbanks, and the ARRC. Before that it was Suneel Corp from Korea that owned it. Perhaps permits are in other names?

The transfer facility and coal terminal have been in operation for almost 20 years now. There have been numerous fugitive dust issues over the years which culminated in multiple NOV's in '07. That was when we found out the baghouses had never even been operational. So far this year they have managed to use the weather to their advantage, when its wet, dust is not an issue, and its been a very wet year in Seward. Uncontrolled runoff and discharges is now my primary concern.

I appreciate your attention on this issue. Please let me know if you find any permits for the facility.

Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our environment.

Regards, Russ

--- On Mon, 12/8/08, Ashton, William S (DEC)  
<william.ashton@alaska.gov> wrote:

> From: Ashton, William S (DEC)  
<william.ashton@alaska.gov>  
> Subject: RE: Seward Coal Terminal  
> To: russmaddox@Exemption 6  
> Cc: "Julie Congdon" <congdon.julie@epa.gov>  
> Date: Monday, December 8, 2008, 5:47 PM  
> Hi,  
>  
> In my initial search I did not find a MSGP SWPPP  
for the  
> Alaska  
> Railroads' Seward Coal Terminal.  
>  
> Julie, Please search your records for an NOI for  
the MSGP  
> for the  
> Alaska Railroad.  
>

> Thanks  
>  
> William Ashton  
> Stormwater/Wetlands  
> ADEC  
> 555 Cordova St  
> Anchorage, AK 99501  
> Ph 907-269-6283  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Russ Maddox [mailto:russmaddox@Exemption 6]  
> Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 2:36 PM  
> To: Ashton, William S (DEC)  
> Subject: Seward Coal Terminal  
>  
> Hi Bill,  
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> Does Aurora Energy/Alaska Railroad have a SWPPP or  
NPDES  
> for the  
> facility's runoff and discharges? You were just  
> recommended as the person  
> who can answer this question for me.  
>  
> Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our  
> environment.  
>  
>  
Regards, Russ



**{In Archive} Seward Coal Dust February 2007**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 10:24 PM

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Please note, in addition to the dust clouds in the air, all the brown coal dust on the ground. Snow should be white.

The boats in the boat harbor were coated, as well as the waters. Our extreme tides efficiently flush and mix pollutants, but it would be interesting to know how much coal lies on the bottom of the adjacent boat harbor and bay.

Carol G



02-28-07 coal dust in har.doc





Coal dust on meter E26, halfway down dock  
Seward boat harbor  
the meter is WHITE  
February 28, 2007

Coal dust on snow, NE dock  
Seward boat harbor  
February 28, 2007







Coal dust cloud  
Alaska Railroad  
Seward, Alaska  
February 24, 2007



Coal dust cloud  
Alaska Railroad  
Seward, Alaska  
February 24, 2007



Coal dust cloud  
Alaska Railroad  
Seward, Alaska  
February 24, 2007





Coal dust cloud  
Alaska Railroad  
Seward, Alaska  
February 24, 2007



Coal dust cloud  
Alaska Railroad  
Seward, Alaska  
February 24, 2007



**{In Archive} RE: Seward Coal Terminal**  
**Ashton, William S (DEC)** to: russmaddox  
Cc: Julie Congdon

12/08/2008 06:47 PM

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Julie, Please search your records for an NOI for the MSGP for the Alaska Railroad.

Thanks

William Ashton  
Stormwater/Wetlands  
ADEC  
555 Cordova St  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Ph 907-269-6283

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To: Ashton, William S (DEC)  
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Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our environment.

Regards, Russ



**{In Archive} RE: Seward Coal Terminal** 

**Julie Congdon** to: Ashton, William S (DEC)

12/09/2008 07:50 AM

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Hi, William -

I found this in my search of a list we have of expired MSGP permittees in Alaska...

AKR05A452  
SEWARD TERMINAL INC  
PO BOX 1789 - 903 PORT AVENUE  
SEWARD, AK 99664

I don't know if this fits what/who you are looking for. I did a search for Aurora Energy but did not find it in the list. I also looked through a file we have of facilities that filed for interim coverage after the expiration of the permit, but did not find anything there for Aurora either.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do. Cheers - Julie

---

Julie Congdon  
Stormwater Compliance Assistance Coordinator  
Office of Compliance & Enforcement, NPDES  
U.S.E.P.A. Region 10  
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, OCE-133  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-2752  
"Ashton, William S (DEC)" <william.ashton@alaska.gov>



**"Ashton, William S (DEC)"**  
**<william.ashton@alaska.gov>**

12/08/2008 06:47 PM

To russmaddox@Exemption 6

cc Julie Congdon/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject RE: Seward Coal Terminal

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**{In Archive} Seward Coal Dust March 2007**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 10:34 PM

Archive:

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And a month later, it all repeated.



03-06-07 coal dust2.doc





Dirty little Coal Town, Seward, Alaska  
March 6, 2007

Dirty little Coal Town, Seward, Alaska  
the sunny day and blue sky is obscured by coal dust  
note black coal dust on snow and drive  
March 6, 2007





AKRR/Usibelli  
Coal dust from coal car/conveyor belt area  
very light north wind  
Seward, Alaska March 20, 2007



AKRR/ Usibelli Coal dust as seen from Port Avenue Seward, Alaska March 20, 07



AKRR/Usibelli

Coal dust from "Dipper" and coal car/conveyor belt area as seen from Port Avenue  
very light north wind

Seward, Alaska March 20, 2007

note: AKRR worker  
in car, watching



March 20, 2007  
Coal dust in air  
Safeway and AVTEC  
Seward, Alaska







**{In Archive} RE: Seward Coal Terminal** 

**Julie Congdon** to: russmaddox

12/09/2008 01:28 PM

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Hello, Russ -

I can enter this into our complaint database and see if a compliance officer can follow up on it. Do you have any photos of the site and of any runoff coming from the site into local waterways? Any and all other details you have about the site would be helpful.

Regards - Julie

---

Julie Congdon  
Stormwater Compliance Assistance Coordinator  
Office of Compliance & Enforcement, NPDES  
U.S.E.P.A. Region 10  
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, OCE-133  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-2752

Russ Maddox <russmaddox@Exemption 6>



**Russ Maddox**  
<russmaddox@Exemption 6>

12/09/2008 08:21 AM

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russmaddox@Exemption 6

To "Ashton, William S \\\(DEC\\)" <william.ashton@alaska.gov>,  
Julie Congdon/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

Subject RE: Seward Coal Terminal

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Regards, Russ



**{In Archive} Seward Coal dust January February 2008**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 11:14 PM

History: This message has been replied to.

Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

That's all for now. I hope this gives you an idea of the scope of coal pollution here in Seward. We really need regulatory staff HERE to witness and enforce regulations.

Best,  
Carol Griswold  
Seward



Coal dust coats the snow black and brown.  
Seward Alaska February 1, 2008





Coal dust along Port Avenue south of coal loading facility  
February 1, 2008 Seward, Alaska









Coal train unloading, black snow, fine dust cloud  
Note operator in control building, watching operation  
February 8, 2008 Seward, Alaska



Coal train unloading, black snow  
February 8, 2008  
Seward, Alaska





Coal train unloading, black snow  
February 8, 2008  
Seward, Alaska



Coal black snow along Port Avenue by cruise ship terminal.  
This nasty view is NOT for visitors' eyes!  
February 8, 2008 Third World? No, it's Seward, Alaska



Black snow, black everything  
Third World Seward, Alaska  
February 8, 2008



Coal dust on ground  
Welcome to Seward Alaska!  
February 28, 2008







**{In Archive} Re: Seward Coal dust January February 2008** 

**Julie Congdon** to: Carol Griswold

Cc: cgriz, William Ashton

12/15/2008 09:25 AM

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

Hello, Carol -

Thank you for the emails and the photos. I have entered them into our complaint system and a compliance officer will review them. However, to bolster the complaint, do you have any recent (from the latter half of 2008) photos of the facility? Can you describe how the situation currently looks at the facility? If you have any other information, or if you have any questions for me, please let me know.

Thanks - Julie

---

Julie Congdon  
Stormwater Compliance Assistance Coordinator  
Office of Compliance & Enforcement, NPDES  
U.S.E.P.A. Region 10  
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, OCE-133  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-2752  
Carol Griswold <cgriz@Exemption 6>



**Carol Griswold**

<cgriz@Exemption 6>

Sent by: cgriz@Exemption 6

12/10/2008 11:12 PM

To Julie Congdon/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc William Ashton <william.ashton@alaska.gov>

Subject Seward Coal dust January February 2008

That's all for now. I hope this gives you an idea of the scope of coal pollution here in Seward.  
We really need regulatory staff HERE to witness and enforce regulations.

Best,  
Carol Griswold  
Seward



Welcome to the New Year! Brown snow.  
Seward Alas! ka January 29, 2008



Coal dust coats the snow black and brown.  
Seward Alaska February 1, 2008



Coal dust along Port Avenue south of coal loading facility  
February 1, 2008 Seward, Alaska











Coal train unloading, black snow, fine dust cloud  
Note operator in control building, watching operation  
February 8, 2008 Seward, Alaska



Coal train unloading, black snow  
February 8, 2008  
Seward, Alaska



Coal train unloading, black snow  
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Seward, Alaska



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This nasty view is NOT for visitors' eyes!  
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Black snow, black everything  
Third World Seward, Alaska  
February 8, 2008



Coal dust on ground  
Welcome to Seward Alaska!  
February 28, 2008







**{In Archive} Seward Coal dust April 2007**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 10:51 PM

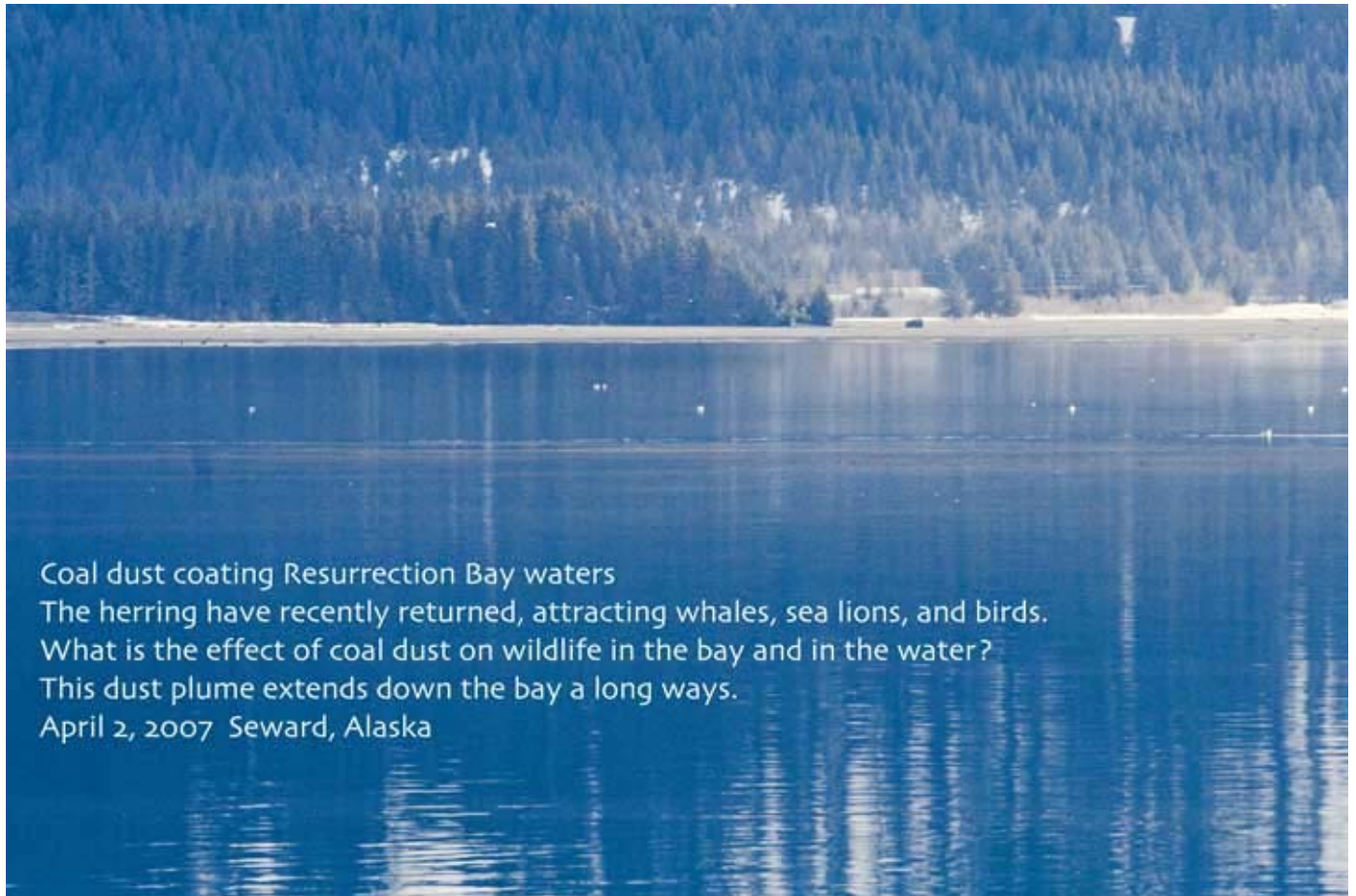
Archive:

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Another coal shipment, more pollution of the air,  
land, and water.  
A fine, calm day in April and the brown dust is  
clearly seen on the bay  
while tour boats take visitors out to marvel at the  
magnificent scenery  
and wildlife. This pollution is unconscionable and  
totally incompatible  
with tourism and healthy living, not to mention  
ILLEGAL.

Carol G





Coal dust coating Resurrection Bay waters

The herring have recently returned, attracting whales, sea lions, and birds.

What is the effect of coal dust on wildlife in the bay and in the water?

This dust plume extends down the bay a long ways.

April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



Coal dust in boat harbor waters, coating the surface  
What is it doing to the water quality in the harbor and bay?  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska





Coal dust escaping from conveyor belt between coal pile and coal ship  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



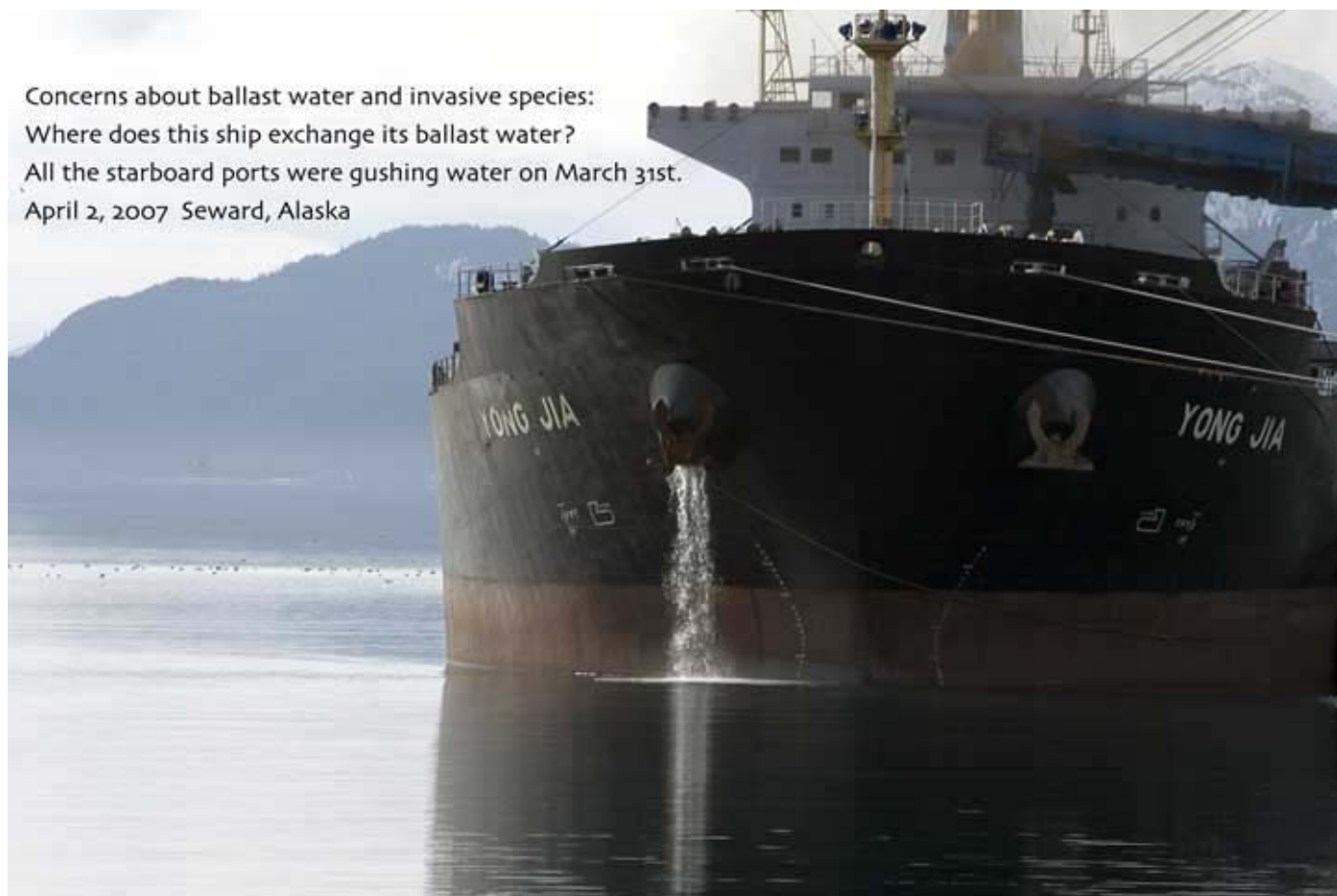
Black coal dust from the "Big Dipper" fills the sky, and coats the ground and water  
Sprinklers activated for the first time this year, no effect noted  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



Black cloud of coal dust from the "Big Dipper"  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



Concerns about ballast water and invasive species:  
Where does this ship exchange its ballast water?  
All the starboard ports were gushing water on March 31st.  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska





Coal dust spewing from conveyor belt system  
The conveyor belt covers and ground are black with coal dust  
There are similar leaks all along the conveyor belt to the coal ship  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



Coal dust spewing from the conveyor belt and coal ship, in addition to the coal ship diesel exhaust emissions  
April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska



Tour boat industry collides with coal export industry

I wonder what the boat captain said about the coal dust cloud and the brown coal dust on the water?

April 2, 2007 Seward, Alaska





**{In Archive} Seward coal dust**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: Ashton, William S

12/10/2008 10:08 PM

Archive:

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Hi Julie,

I was asked to send photos documenting the coal dust on the ground and running off into the water.

Attached please find photos from 2005 and a letter.

Emails from 2007 will follow.

I hope this helps to show you at least some of the totally uncontained coal dust polluting the ground and surrounding waters.

I appreciate your help in improving this Third World treatment of a very special ecosystem and the citizens of Seward.

Sincerely,  
Carol Griswold  
Seward

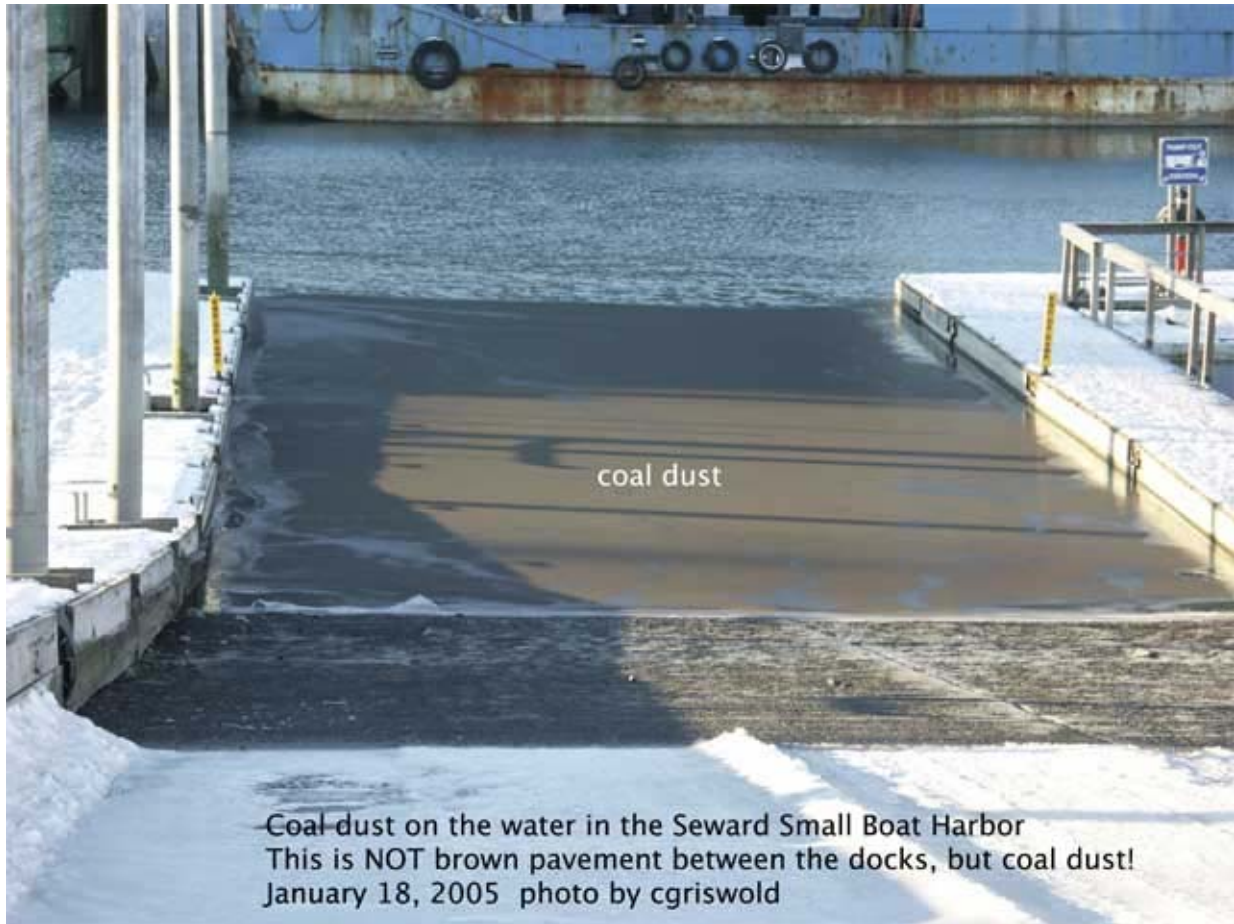


08-04-05 Air quality copy

Coal dust in the air, land, and ocean  
Seward, Alaska 01-18-05  
©griswold







Coal dust on the water in the Seward Small Boat Harbor  
This is NOT brown pavement between the docks, but coal dust!  
January 18, 2005 photo by cgriswold













Coal dust on the water in the Seward Small Boat Harbor  
January 18, 2005 photo by cgriswold





**{In Archive} Seward Coal Dust from Coal Ship March 2007**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 10:45 PM

Archive:

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Uncontained coal dust pours into air and on water and land during loading operation on ship while "Dipper" scoop generates more unhealthy coal dust.

Loading coal ship creates another dust cloud

Seward, Alaska March 31, 2007



Loading coal ship creates another dust cloud and pollutes bay and shore  
Seward, Alaska March 31, 2007





Transferring coal to ship should not generate dust!  
March 31, 2007 Seward, Alaska



dust cloud continues from Dipper  
Seward, Alaska March 31, 2007



Continuous stream of black smoke from coal boat during entire time in port  
Seward, Alaska March 31, 2007







**{In Archive} Seward Coal Dust November 2007**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/10/2008 10:59 PM

Archive:

This message is being viewed in an archive.

November 2007

Brown snow continues, dust uncontained.

Carol G





Coal dust pollution continues, fouling the air, land, and sea  
Seward Alaska November 17, 2007



Coal dust pollution continues, fouling the air, land, and sea  
Seward Alaska November 17, 2007





**{In Archive} RE: Seward Coal Terminal**

**Russ Maddox** to: Julie Congdon

12/10/2008 10:04 AM

Archive:

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Hi Julie,

I took these March 5. Its just west of the conveyor belt that runs from the coal stockpile out to the ships being loaded. Its not clear to me where the RR property ends and city's begins. Its actually the north harbor boat launch parking lot, SE corner.

Just in the last few years the small boat harbor has been expanded so that the breakwater now encompasses this area. It is not uncommon for the water's surface to be brown with coal dust in the still water. When its dry the coal dust blows and actually floats on the surface for a while. These pictures show the accumulated snow and coal dust from the winter as it melts and flows into the bay. It looks like chocolate milk.

The City of Seward is in the process of preparing their SWPPP for this area. This parking lot is on their agenda to complete in '09. Now that they are aware of the law I hope that they will consider control mechanisms for this heretofore unobstructed runoff. We have so much snow here that each business or area winds up with a "snow dump" which eventually melts. These dumps are generally placed as close to the beach or ditches to melt in the spring. This is very problematic with facilities that engage in waste generating activities. It simply gets mixed in with snow all winter and then "goes away" in the spring. Containment is a very difficult concept for folks to grasp up here.

Let me know if I can help in any way. I also passed your contact information to my friend Carol Griswold who has also been raising awareness of Seward's pollution issues for years. She has numerous photos and information that should be of use.

Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our environment.

Regards, Russ

--- On Tue, 12/9/08, Congdon.Julie@epamail.epa.gov  
<Congdon.Julie@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

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> To: russmaddox@Exemption 6  
> Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 12:28 PM

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terminal  
> operator is  
> Aurora Energy now which is some sort of partnership  
between  
> the Usibelli  
> coal mine in Healy, a coal-fired power plant in  
Fairbanks,  
> and the ARRC.  
> Before that it was Suneel Corp from Korea that  
owned it.  
> Perhaps permits  
> are in other names?





> > Stormwater/Wetlands  
> > ADEC  
> > 555 Cordova St  
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> > Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of our  
> > environment.  
> >  
> >  
> > Regards,  
Russ



Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 001.jpg



Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 002.jpg Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 003.jpg



Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 004.jpg Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 005.jpg



Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 006.jpg Harbor RR stormwater 3 5 08 007.jpg



**{In Archive} Re: Seward Coal dust January February 2008**

**Carol Griswold** to: Julie Congdon

Sent by: **cgriz@** Exemption 6  
Exemption 6

Cc: William Ashton

12/15/2008 10:31 AM

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Hi Julie,

I wasn't sure exactly what you needed. At least you know now what it has looked like for many years.

All those years and years of uncontained coal and coal dust is still on the ground and in the bay. The conveyor belt still drops coal and leaks dust from the discontinuous metal cover. The "settling pond" by Port Avenue is very small; its purpose is questionable. The other, larger, 5 acre "settling pond" and wetlands to the north is slated to be filled with gravel very soon and then used as a storage area for coal, gravel, or other storage needs.

I'll try to document the current condition for you when I have time. I encourage you to come to Seward to see for yourself. As far as I can tell, there are no ground or water pollution prevention practices.

Best,  
Carol Griswold

Congdon.Julie@epamail.epa.gov wrote:

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> Hello, Carol -  
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